



NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—Past, Present, Future



The Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors [the “Board”] continues to work diligently to put forth best practices that reflect emergent developments in the practice of mortuary science through regulation and legislation.

Proudly serving for 42 years in the industry, I cannot begin to express my gratitude for the opportunity to preside as Board President for the past eight months.

I am very pleased with the collaborative progress that we have made to advance the mission of the Board, while remaining unyielding in our commitment to serve the needs of families during some of their most difficult times.

Many thanks to our esteemed Board members—your public service is appreciated and more importantly, is making a visible difference. Please know that your dedication and volunteerism are paramount to our continued sustainability.

We also welcomed our new Executive Director Gail V. Tucker in July 2018. A “Meet and Greet” was held on September 28, 2018. The evening event allowed morticians, mortuary transporters, and friends in the death care industry, to personally introduce themselves and network with like professionals. Mrs. Tucker holds degrees in Business & Technology Management and Innovative Leadership. Prior to her appointment to the Board, she served as Administrator/Chief Office Manager at Division of Vital Records in EDRS.



We are delighted with the improvements the Board has accomplished—from an updated user-friendly web site and automation—to streamlined licensing processes, all in support of our mission to provide high quality standards, exemplary customer service, and consumer protections for the citizens of Maryland. We laud those who work in concert with us to uphold these professional standards.

Nevertheless, we do realize there is more work to be done and we welcome your candid feedback. We also hope that you will continue to be engaged attendees during our monthly public meetings, which take place on the second Wednesday of each month, except August, at 1:00 p.m.

The Board and the staff are here to help you and stand ready to assist you in the important work we do each and every day. We look forward to sustained growth within our noble industry and seek to expand partnerships and attain common goals throughout the State of Maryland.

Warmest regards,

D. Lynn Newman

Donald Lynn Newman
Board President

Gail V. Tucker

Gail Victoria Tucker, MS, MBA
Executive Director

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MATTERS OF FACT

- Board Meetings
- The Board
- CEUs
- Did You Know?
- Testing



BMFD SHEPHERDING **QUALITY** CUSTOMER SERVICE

In June 2016, Governor Larry Hogan launched the “*Customer Service Initiative*,” a program designed to foster improvements in customer service across Maryland state agencies. This program pledges to provide constituents, businesses, customers, and key stakeholders with quality services while being...

- *Friendly and Courteous*
- *Timely and Responsive*
- *Accurate and Consistent*
- *Accessible and Convenient*
- *Truthful and Transparent*



In this regard, the BMFD remains steadfast in offering high-quality customer service standards through...

- *One-week turnaround time for licensing*
- *24-hr. initial response to telephone and email inquiries, including inquiries from the Intranet Quorum System*
- *CEUs for Professional Development*
- *User-friendly Web Site*

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The BMFD supports funeral establishments in hiring the best and the brightest. The following funeral establishments have reported vacancies:

- *Elise Funeral Home in Reisterstown (funeral director/embalmer)*
- *Minnich Funeral Home in Hagerstown (funeral director)*
- *Maryland Cremation Services in Millersville (funeral director)*
- *The Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin (funeral director/embalmer)*

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY

The Maryland Department of Health recognizes challenges associated with racial and ethnic disparities in health literacy among the citizens of Maryland. The BMFD will award one CEU to licensees who take one of the following courses during renewal cycles.

- *Project Implicit*
- *Putting Together the Pieces: Communicating with Limited English Proficiency Populations*
- *The Health of LGBT People: Ending Disparities, Ending Invisibility*
- *Exploring Cross Cultural Communication: Examining Stereotypes*



Please visit the BMFD's web site, or <https://health.maryland.gov/mhhd/Documents/MHHD-Recommended-Health-Equity-Trainings.pdf>, for course descriptions.

I.C.Y.M.I.

The Maryland House of Delegates voted 74-66 to approve HB399/SB311 that allows patients with terminal illnesses to seek life-ending medication – three votes more than the 71 votes required for passage. It was the fourth attempt to pass the bill, failing in three other General Assembly sessions.

The vote came after more than an hour of debate. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. Eight states have legalized medically assisted suicide. The measure, called the "End of Life Option Act," would give mentally capable, terminally-ill, Maryland adults the ability to get a prescription for medicine to end their life.

The patient must be 18 years of age, have a terminal illness with a prognosis of less than six months to live, and be able to administer the prescribed medication themselves. The patient must also request the prescribed medication on three separate occasions, including at least once in private and at least once in writing.

In Case You Missed It



RECENT LEGISLATION

SB147 - Disposition of Remains – Forfeiture or Waiver of Rights of Disposition (SUPPORT)

This bill necessitates a person to forfeit the right of final disposition of the body of a decedent and that the right pass to the next qualifying person, under certain circumstances. In addition, it prohibits funeral directors, morticians, and funeral establishments from being held civilly liable for acting in reliance of this Act. The bill permits the disposition of a deceased when the person with primary right of disposition either defaults or fails to come forward, delaying the process for an indefinite period of time and costs to other family members or willing parties.

SB974 - Occupational Licenses or Certificates – Application Determinations – Use of Criminal History (OPPOSE)

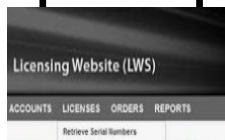
This bill prohibits specified executive departments or local licensing authorities that issue occupational licenses or certificates from denying an application for an occupational license or certificate for reasons associated with an applicant's criminal history if a certain period of time has passed since the applicant's conviction. In addition, it repeals existing statutory provisions pertaining to the denial of an occupational license or certificate solely on the basis of an applicant's prior criminal conviction for a nonviolent crime. Further, the bill deletes language that will allow an individual previously convicted of any crime, including a crime of violence, which was previously excluded, to apply for a license in a health occupation. The amended language, as it applies to convictions for nonviolent crimes, is condensed from seven years to five years.

WELCOME NEW LICENSEES! (07/01/2018-02/28/2019)

*Nicholas Hassani
Treshawnna Fayson
Daniel Hensley
Jonathan W. Meacham, Sr.
Alexandra Wanless
Jane Ostergaard
Mark Law
Alexandra McAllister
Kimberlee Joy McMahon
Paul Steven Danfelt, Jr.
Myles Kalina-Hammond
Erin Nagy
Teresa Johnson
Beth Ann Smith
Shelby Funk
Tyler Moser*

INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

Morticians	967
Funeral Directors	9
Surviving Spouse	9
Apprentices	61
Courtesy Cardholders	65
Crematory Operators	199
Mortuary Transporters	334



LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

1. Heart Disease	9. Blood Poisoning
2. Cancer	10. Nephritis/Kidney
3. Stroke	11. Suicide
4. Accidents	12. Homicide
5. Lung Disease	13. Hypertension/Renal
6. Diabetes	14. Parkinson's
7. Alzheimer's	15. Liver Disease
8. Influenza-Pneumonia	



Does the person paying for services have the right to make the arrangements and the right of disposition?

No, the right of disposition and the right to make arrangements follow the lineage statute as explained in Health Occupations Article Title §7-410.

Does the Board recommend qualified/experienced individuals for employment?

The Board is happy to list a job opening that your establishment is looking to fill in its quarterly Newsletter. Please provide your company name, location, and position to Eula Gautreaux, Licensing Chief, at eula.gautreaux@maryland.gov.

Can licensees submit articles of interest for inclusion in the BMFD Newsletter?

Yes, licensees are encouraged to submit articles/news relative to the industry to Gail Tucker, Executive Director, at gailv.tucker@maryland.gov. Inclusion is at the discretion of the Executive Director.

What is the application submission cut-off date for inclusion on the agenda?

All applications/supporting documentation must be received by the last Wednesday of the month prior to the Board meeting.

Does the Board offer seminars for CEUs?

Although previously offered, the Board voted in February 2019 to no longer permit Board staff to offer CEU seminars. However, as CEU opportunities become available in other venues, they can be posted on the web site upon request.

Are there special requirements for domestic partnerships?

Maryland requires a written affidavit with both individual's signatures stating that they have established a domestic partnership. In addition to the signed affidavit, provide any two of the documents listed under Health General Article, Section 6-101 found at <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/fmStatutesText.aspx?article=ghg§ion=6-101&ext=html&session=2019RS&tab=subject5>

How long is the complaint process?

There is no definitive time for the complaint process. Following a thorough investigation, complaints are then reviewed by the Complaint Committee. Board decisions are rendered at monthly Board meetings, which occur the second Wednesday of each month, except August.

What information is required on my General Price List (GPL)?

The GPL should be printed or typewritten and must contain the following identifying information:

- the name, address, and telephone number of the funeral provider's place of business, including the address and telephone number for each branch;
- the caption: "General Price List;" and
- the effective date of the price list.

Six required disclosures on the GPL: 1) the consumer's right to select only the goods and service desired; 2) embalming; 3) alternative containers for direct cremation; 4) the basic services fees; 5) the casket price list; and 6) the outer burial container price list.

EDRS & OTHER NEWS

Division of Vital Records Electronic Death Registration Process

OCME Web Site Portal

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has a new portal that will allow licensees to assign ME certificates to their establishment, submit authorization of release, request a name change, request a letter of non-contagious disease, and check the status of pending certificates.

To register, please contact Dr. William Spencer-Strong at the OCME at strongw@ocmemd.org

Registration is completed several times throughout the day. Please allow 24 business hours for the registration process to be completed.

If there are urgent matters, for instance the decedent is being transported out of the country, you may contact the EDRS Help-Desk to request the certificate be registered.

To ensure your certificates will pass registration when transcribing, check to make sure the medical portion is completed in its entirety [Items 1-4C and 23a-30]. Items 5-22 do not have to be completed on the paper certificate as this information will be entered electronically.

Before submitting the certificate for registration, check to make sure that the social security number has passed validation by clicking on Certificate Options and View Status.

After the 5th business day, if the certificate has not been submitted for registration, a late letter is requested.

CREMATORY OPERATORS...DID YOU KNOW?

Pursuant to COMAR 10.29.17.06—There is no current requirement under the Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors' regulations to retake the operator training course or become recertified by the Cremation Association of North America (CANA); International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association (ICCFA); or other equivalent certification recognized jointly by the Board and the Office.

Maryland Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors

4201 Patterson Avenue, 5th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Phone: 410-764-4792

Fax: 410-358-6571

Web Address:

health.maryland.gov/bom/Pages/home.aspx

BOARD STAFF

Gail V. Tucker
Executive Director

Eula Gautreaux
Licensing Chief

Thomas Anderson
Health Occupations Investigator

Lisa Woods
Office Secretary

Carla Boyd, Esq.
Board Counsel

BOARD MEMBERS

D. Lynn Newman, President
Wayne A. Cooper, Esq., 1st VP
Dr. Mark Bailey, 2nd VP
Michele Kutta, Board Secretary
Victor C. March, Sr.
Robert Bradshaw
Ahmed Elzaree, MD
Lynn Shuppel
Kirk Helfenbein
Robert Lang

TESTING

April
04/16/19 Jurisprudence Exam
10:00 a.m.
Board Office

April
04/18/19 Practical Exam
1:00 p.m.
State Anatomy Board

BOARD MEETING CEUs

Board Meetings take place on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. and are open to the public.

The BMFD encourages all licensees to attend monthly Board meetings and will award one (1) CEU to those in attendance.

BOARD MEETINGS

January 9, 2019
February 13, 2019
March 13, 2019
April 10, 2019
May 8, 2019
June 12, 2019
July 10, 2019
September 11, 2019
October 9, 2019
November 13, 2019
December 11, 2019

